PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph Phillip Bigus et al.   Art Unit: 2762

Serial No.: 09/100,595   Examiner: Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.

Filed: June 19, 1998   Atty. Docket No.: IBM/04B

For: OPTIMIZING THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPUTER TASKS USING
INTELLIGENT AGENT WITH MULTIPLE PROGRAM MODULES HAVING
VARIED DEGREES OF DOMAIN KNOWLEDGE (AS AMENDED)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 1, 1999, the following amendments and remarks
are provided:

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

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Please cancel claims 46, 61 and 75 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 30, 47-49, 62-64 and 76-77 as follows:

30. (Once Amended) A program product comprising:

(a) a program configured to perform a computer task using an intelligent agent,
the program comprising an intelligent agent including at least one of a plurality of
program modules having varied degrees of [domain knowledge] autonomy, wherein the
plurality of program modules are each configured to handle a common computer task that
includes conducting negotiations in an electronic commerce application, and wherein,
based upon an objective criteria at least one selected program module from the plurality
of program modules is selected to handle the computer task; and

[[b]] (b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.

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